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| APPLICATION NO. | FILING DATE | FIRST NAMED INVENTOR | ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. | CONFIRMATION NO. |
|---------------------------|-------------|----------------------|---------------------|------------------|
| 10/615,661 | 07/09/2003 | Ralf Assmann | 2639 | 9320 |
| 7590 | 04/05/2006 | | EXAMINER | |
| STRIKER, STRIKER & STENBY | | | LE, HUYEN D | |
| 103 East Neck Road | | | ART UNIT | PAPER NUMBER |
| Huntington, NY 11743 | | | 3751 | |

DATE MAILED: 04/05/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

| | | |
|------------------------------|----------------------|------------------|
| Office Action Summary | Application No. | Applicant(s) |
| | 10/615,661 | ASSMANN, RALF |
| | Examiner Huyen Le | Art Unit 3751 |

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 20 January 2006.
- 2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1-9 is/are pending in the application.
 - 4a) Of the above claim(s) 6-8 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 1-5 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) 9 is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
- 5) Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

2. Claims 1-5 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Najmolhoda (5,921,526) or, in the alternative, under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as obvious over Najmolhoda (5,921,526).

The Najmolhoda reference discloses a pressure control valve comprising a valve unit 10 extruded from plastic, wherein the valve unit 10 is arranged coaxially to an actuator unit 14 and serves to control a fluid flow between a supply port 72 and a consumer port 74, and wherein fluid channels 18f, 74a and a valve chamber 18e are formed in the valve unit 10 wherein a valve closing member 38 is disposed in the valve chamber 18e, and wherein the fluid channels 18f, 74a and the valve chamber 18e are formed on an injection-molded preform 18 that includes a flange 19, such that flange 19 surrounds the preformed 18, the flange 19 represents an outer hydraulic region of the valve unit 10, wherein the consumer port 74 and the supply port 72 are formed on the flange 19.

Although Najmolhoda et al does not disclose the extrusion coating process used to mold the flange 19a of housing 19 on the preform or hydraulic 18, it appears that the valve unit 12 of Najmolhoda et al would be similar to that as claimed.

Regarding claim 2, the perform 18 has a seating plate 18b, wherein the seating plate is oriented at the right angle to a longitudinal axis of the valve unit 10.

Regarding claim 3, the preform 18 has at least one plane of symmetry.

Regarding claim 4, the valve closing member 38 is a sphere.

Regarding claim 5, the valve closing member 38 can be actuated by means of a slide valve 22, wherein the slide valve 22 penetrates the perform 18 in axial direction.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. Claims 1-5 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Najmolhoda (5,921,526) in view of Maier et al (5,775,355).

The Najmolhoda reference discloses a pressure control valve comprising a valve unit 10 extruded from plastic, wherein the valve unit 10 is arranged coaxially to an actuator unit 14 and serves to control a fluid flow between a supply port 72 and a consumer port 80, and wherein fluid channels 18f, 74a and a valve chamber 18e are formed in the valve unit 10 wherein a valve closing member 38 is disposed in the valve chamber 18e, and wherein the fluid channels 18f, 74a and the valve chamber 18e are formed on an injection-molded preform 18 that includes a flange 19a.

Although Najmolhoda does not disclose that the flange 19a (or housing 19) is connected to the perform or hydraulic 18 by extrusion coating, attention is directed to

Maier et al reference which teaches a control valve comprising a valve casing 8 having a flange 58 extrusion-coated thereon.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to have the flange extrusion-coated on the Najmolhoda preform or bobbin in view of the teaching of Maier et al reference as an alternative way of connecting the valve parts together.

Allowable Subject Matter

5. Claim 9 is objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Response to Arguments

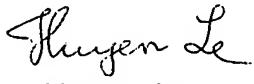
6. Applicant's arguments filed on 01/20/2006 with respect to claims 1-5 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Conclusion

7. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Huyen Le whose telephone number is 571-272-4890. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday from 9:00 am to 5:00 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Justine Yu can be reached on 571-272-4835. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).


Huyen Le
Examiner
Art Unit 3751

April 3, 2006